

2006 Browns Ferry



Emergency Information

State of Alabama, Lauderdale County Emergency Management Agency,
Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency, Limestone County Emergency Management Agency,
Morgan County Emergency Management Agency, Tennessee Valley Authority



QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS MATERIAL

Lauderdale County Emergency Management Agency
760-6363

Lawrence County Emergency Management Agency
974-7641

Limestone County Emergency Management Agency
232-2631 or 232-1530 (after hours)

Morgan County Emergency Management Agency
351-4620 or 353-2515 (after hours)

Tennessee Valley Authority
729-7698 (inside local calling area)
800-467-1388 (outside calling area)



Dear Browns Ferry Neighbor:

As in the past, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the State of Alabama, and your local Emergency Management Agency have provided you with a calendar that contains important information about Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and photographs of the Tennessee Valley Region.

This 2006 calendar contains updated information reflecting additions and changes over the past year. This information will help you better understand Browns Ferry and the emergency plans that have been developed for your protection. Please keep the calendar in a convenient place and readily available. Any previous calendars or brochures concerning emergency information or instructions about Browns Ferry should be discarded.

We realize that some Browns Ferry neighbors have needs that would require special assistance in the unlikely event of an emergency at the plant. Therefore, we have included a card for you to fill out and return if such assistance is needed.

For your convenience, the card has been pre-addressed, and the postage has been paid. In order for emergency officials to maintain a current list of persons who would need assistance, this card must be returned immediately, even though you may have sent a card from a previous calendar or brochure.

If you have any questions about this material, please call one of the numbers listed at left, and we will be glad to answer them for you.

Brian O'Grady, Vice President
Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant
Tennessee Valley Authority

Bruce P. Baughman, Director
Alabama Emergency Management Agency
State of Alabama

Donald E. Williamson, M.D.,
State Health Officer
Alabama Department of Public Health
State of Alabama



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The Prompt Notification System

We expect Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant to operate safely. However, if an incident occurs at the plant, TVA will notify state and local officials at once.

In-depth plans have been prepared by TVA, the State of Alabama, and your local Emergency Management Agency to protect your health and safety, and this calendar is a part of those plans. We want you to be prepared, know what the sirens mean, and know what you should do if you hear them.

The Prompt Notification System is a means of informing the public with sirens and tone-alert radios and providing information through local radio and television stations that are a part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and NOAA weather radio messages.

The fixed sirens can be heard within a 10-mile radius of Browns Ferry. If needed, the Prompt Notification System will be activated to quickly inform you and the rest of the public of any potential threat. The sirens and other warning systems are operated by your local Emergency Management Agency. The sirens may be used to warn residents of an emergency other than an incident at Browns Ferry. For example, the sirens may be used to warn the public of floods, tornadoes, or other natural or man-made disasters. If you hear a long, steady siren tone, turn to your local radio or television station for news and instructions and check on your neighbors.

If there is an emergency, information will be given over local radio and television stations. If emergency information is not being broadcast and sirens are sounding, there may be a problem with the siren system. If you note a problem with one of the sirens, please call your county Emergency Management Agency using the numbers listed inside the front cover.



If you hear the sirens

Check it out – it could be only a test. Siren tests occur in your area on the second Monday of each month at 9:15 a.m. The sirens may not be tested if there is severe weather in your area.

Tune to one of your local radio or television stations and listen for instructions. These local radio and television stations will carry the emergency broadcasts. Initially, information also will be broadcast over the NOAA weather radio system (162.400 and 162.475 MHz). Remember, if you are not sure about the sirens, assume the warning is real.

Lauderdale County: WLAY-FM (100.3); WQLT-FM (107.3); WSBM-AM (1340)

Lawrence County: WALW-FM (98.3)

Limestone County: WVNN-AM (770); WZYP-FM (104.3); WKAC-AM (1080); WTZT (ZTV-Channel 11)

Morgan County: WWTM-AM (1400); WDRM-FM (102.1); WAJF-AM (1490)

Check on your neighbors.

If the warning involves an incident at Browns Ferry, you might be advised by radio, television, or police loudspeakers to go indoors and close all windows, doors, and other sources of outside air. If so, stay indoors and turn to page 2 for additional information. If you are asked to leave (evacuate) your area, turn to page 2 for additional information.

Do not use the phone unless absolutely necessary. The phone lines need to be open for emergency workers.

Do not call 911 for information if you hear the sirens.





If you are advised to take shelter indoors

- Go indoors and stay there.
- Close all doors and windows.
- Shut off all systems that draw outside air into the house such as furnaces, air conditioners, fireplace vents, and dampers.
- Stay tuned to your local EAS radio or television station (see page 1). These are the best sources for information and instruction.
- If you must go outside, protect your breathing. Place a damp cloth or towel over your nose and mouth.
- If you are told that it is safe to go outside, try to check on your neighbors. They may not have heard the announcements.
- Do not use the phone unless you have a special emergency and need help. Leave the lines open for official business.
- Stay calm and do not rush. Evacuation can work prop-



If you are asked to leave (evacuate) the area

erly and reduce your risk if you act safely and calmly.

- Take a few items with you. Gather personal items you or your family might need, using the checklist on page 7.
- Turn off lights, appliances, and water.
- As you leave, lock your house and tie a white cloth or white towel on your front door to let emergency workers know everyone has left the area.
- Please leave your pets at home (preferably indoors) with plenty of food and water. If you must bring your pet to a reception center, it must be in a pet carrier or other sturdy container. Pets will not be allowed in the public shelters.
- Use your own transportation or, if possible, ride with a neighbor. Keep car windows and air vents closed and listen to a local radio station.
- Use the map on page 3 of this calendar to find the sector in which you live and the evacuation route you should follow. (Write this information in the space provided next to the map.)
- Follow the evacuation routes shown on the map. Go

to the nearest reception center and register as an evacuee. If you become separated from your family, ask the locating service at the reception center to help you find your relatives.

Schoolchildren

Children in a school within the 10-mile planning zone will be given top priority during an evacuation and will be transported with supervision to reception centers. Listen to your local radio station for additional information.

A locating service will be set up at the reception center to provide help. Your local radio station will tell you the location of the reception center that serves your area.

Where to go



It is important that you follow the evacuation routes shown on the map. These routes are marked with blue and white evacuation signs. Go to a reception center within your own county.

Even if you do not plan to stay in a public shelter, you should register as an evacuee. It is important that you register for accountability.

While you are away

Law enforcement officers will secure the evacuated areas to protect homes and businesses. Homes and buildings with white towels on the front door will be checked often. ONLY authorized persons will be allowed into the evacuated areas.

Officials of the Alabama Department of Public Health will monitor the affected areas, and you will be notified when to return home.

Two-Mile Zone





Browns Ferry Evacuation Map and Routes

It is important that you follow the evacuation routes shown on the map. The 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) is divided into sectors. For quick reference, locate the sector in which you live or work and write it in the space provided below. Sector descriptions are listed on pages 4 and 5.

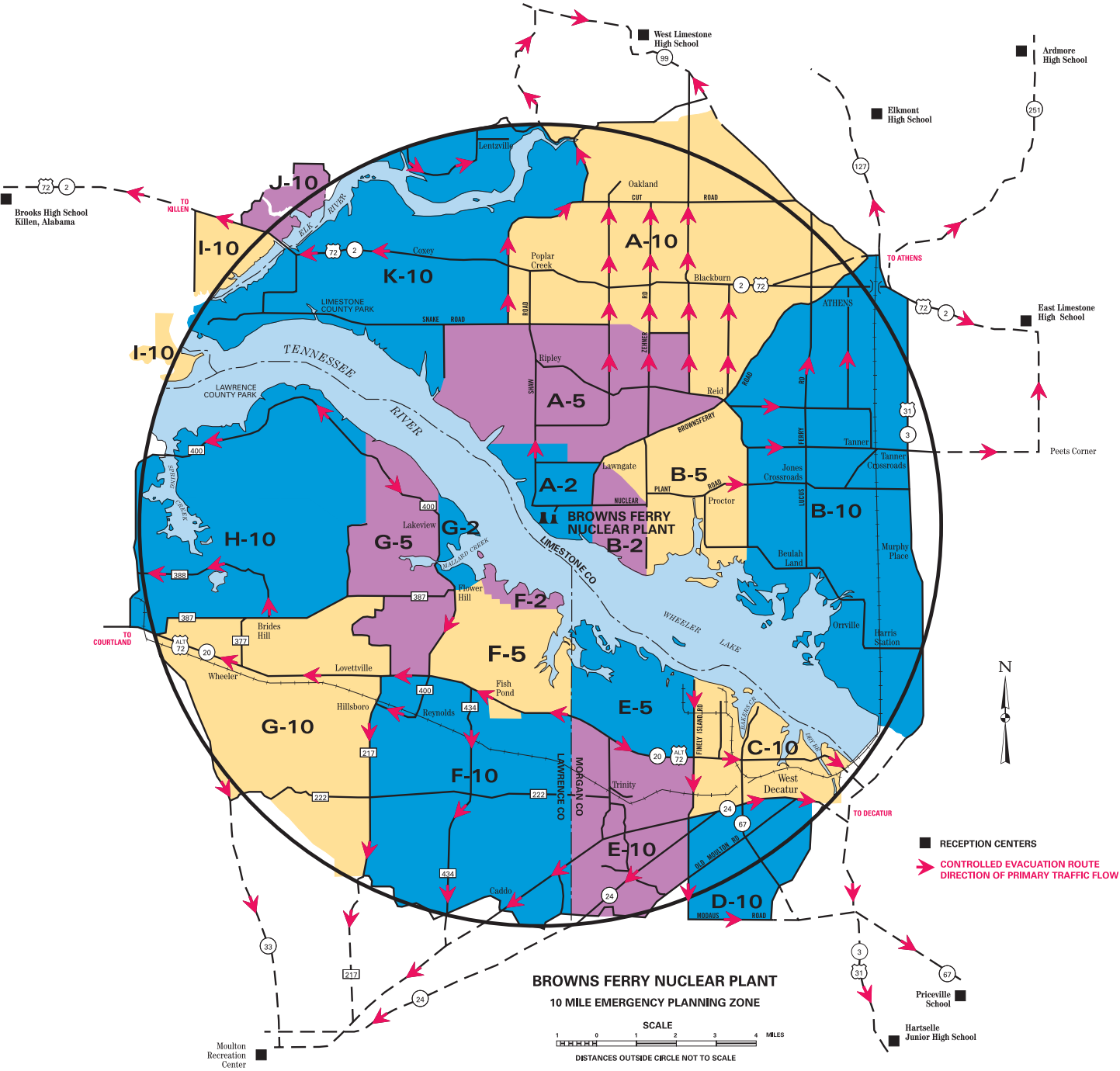
The evacuation routes for each sector are described on page 6. If an evacuation is ordered, locate the number for your sector and follow that route. Law enforcement personnel will patrol these roads and provide any assistance or guidance you need.

Local radio and TV stations will tell you the location of the reception center serving your area.

My sector number is:

Home

Work





Description of Browns Ferry Emergency Planning Zone Sectors

Sector A-2—Limestone County

Beginning at Poplar Creek and the Tennessee River, proceed east on dirt road past Shaw Road 3/4 mile, south on Mack Road to Lawngate Road, east on Lawngate Road, then south on Browns Ferry Road. Continue due south to north bank of the Tennessee River.

Sector B-2—Limestone County

Follow power line north from Tennessee River to Cow Ford Road, then to the intersection of Nuclear Plant Road, continue northwest to intersection of Lawngate and Browns Ferry Roads, south on Browns Ferry Road, then south to the Tennessee River.

Sector F-2—Lawrence County

Beginning on County Road 387 (east of Flower Hill), go southeast along the Wheeler Reservation boundary to the shoreline of the south side of the Tennessee River, then go northwest along the shoreline until it meanders back to the point of beginning at County Road 387.

Sector G-2—Lawrence County

Beginning at a point on County Road 400 at Flower Hill at intersection of County Road 387, go east on County Road 387 to the south shoreline of the Tennessee River, then go west along the shoreline to the Mallard Creek Bridge (County Road 400). Proceed north on County Road 400 to power line, continue due north from power line to the south shoreline of the Tennessee River, then go east along the shoreline of the Tennessee River as it meanders around the Mallard Creek Public Use Area, and back to the Mallard Creek Bridge on County Road 400.

Five-Mile Zone

Sector A-5—Limestone County

Follow Petty Branch north to Friend Road, then east on Snake Road. Proceed east southeast to Grubbs Road,

then east on Grubbs Road, south on Blackburn Road to Reid Road, southeast on Reid Road to Browns Ferry Road, southwest on Browns Ferry Road, west on Lawngate Road 3/4 mile, north on Mack Road 1/2 mile, then due west to Poplar Creek and the Tennessee River.

Sector B-5—Limestone County

Follow power line from Tennessee River to Cow Ford Road, north to the intersection of Nuclear Plant Road, northwest across county to intersection of Lawngate and Browns Ferry Road. Proceed north on Browns Ferry Road to Reid, southeast on Reid Road 1 1/4 miles to Neely Road, south on Neely Road, then due south to the mouth of Mud Creek and the Tennessee River.

Sector E-5—Morgan County

Beginning at the intersection of Lawrence County line and State Highway 20, go north along County line to the Limestone County line on the Tennessee River, east along the County line (on water) to Finley Island Road, south on Finley Island Road to State Highway 20, west on Highway 20 to point of beginning.

Sector F-5—Lawrence County

Beginning at Flower Hill on County Road 400 go east on County Road 387 to the Wheeler Reservation boundary, then follow the Wheeler Reservation boundary to the Lawrence-Morgan County line. Follow the Lawrence-Morgan County line south to Alabama Highway 20, then go west on Alabama Highway 20 to County Road 432 to the intersection of County Road 433, then west and north on County Road 433 until it intersects again with Alabama Highway 20. Go west on Alabama Highway 20 to the intersection of County Road 400, then north on County Road 400 to Flower Hill.

Sector G-5—Lawrence County

Beginning at Flower Hill proceed south on Mallard Creek Road (County Road 400) to Alabama Highway 20. Go west on Alabama Highway 20 approximately one mile to County Road 383, north approximately 3/4 mile to the intersection of County Road 384, then west, north, and east along County Road 384. Go back to County Road 383, then north on County Road 383 to the intersection of County Road 387, then west approximately one mile on County Road 387 to intersection of County Road 423. Go north and east to the end of County Road 423, then due north to the Lawrence County line on the Tennessee River, then east southeast along the Lawrence County line to the power line on County Road 400, then south on Mallard Creek Road (County Road 400), back to Flower Hill.

Ten-Mile Zone

Sector A-10—Limestone County

Starting at Elk River Mills Dock, follow 10-mile EPZ to Elk River Mills Road east to Big Creek. Follow secondary road north of Big Creek to Buck Island Road, then south on Buck Island Road to Athens, south on Jefferson Street, southwest on Browns Ferry Road to Reid, west 1 mile on Reid Road, then north for 1 1/2 miles on Blackburn Road. Proceed west on Grubbs Road, then northwest to Snake Road, north on Gordon Road to New Cut Road; follow New Cut Road to Baker Hill Road, then north on Baker Hill Road; follow Elk River Mills Road to the Elk River Mills Dock.

Sector B-10—Limestone County

Starting at a point due south of Mud Creek, go north on Neely Road from Bridgeforth Road to Browns Ferry Road, northeast on Browns Ferry Road to intersection of Jefferson and Washington Streets in Athens, east on Washington Street to Clinton Street. Follow Clinton Street to Highway 72, proceed east on Highway 72 to Highway 31, south on Highway 31 to Highway 20, southeast on Highway 20 to the Tennessee River.

Sector C-10—Morgan County

Beginning at Limestone County line and Finley Island Road, go south on Finley Island Road to Woodall Road, south on Woodall Road to State Highway 24, east on Highway 24 to Moulton Street (Highway 24). Go east on Moulton Street to the railroad, north on the railroad to the Tennessee River, northwest on river to Finley Island Road and Limestone County.

Sector D-10—Morgan County

Beginning at Woodall Road and Highway 24, go south on Woodall Road to Modaus Road, east on Modaus Road to Danville Road, north on Danville Road to Moulton Street, west on Moulton Street and Highway 24 to Woodall Road and Highway 24.

Sector E-10—Morgan County

Beginning at intersection of State Highway 20 and Lawrence County line, go south along County line to Modaus Road, east along Modaus to Old Moulton Road, then northeast on Old Moulton Road to Woodall Road, north on Woodall Road to State Highway 20, west on Highway 20 to Lawrence County line.

Sector F-10—Lawrence County

Beginning on Alabama Highway 20 at the Lawrence-Morgan County line, go west on Alabama Highway 20 to County Road 432, then south on 432 to the intersection of County Road 433, then west and north on County Road 433 until it intersects again with Alabama Highway 20. Go west on Alabama Highway 20 to the intersection of County Road 217, then south on County Road 217 to the intersection of County Road 301 at Sulphur Spring. Follow County Road 301 until the road runs into County Road 299, then follow County Road 299 until road runs into County Road 214; remain on County Road 214 east to Lawrence-Morgan County line, then north along the Lawrence-Morgan County line to the point of beginning on Alabama Highway 20.

Sector G-10—Lawrence County

Beginning at the intersection of Alabama Highway 20 and County Road 383, go north on County Road 383 to intersection of County Road 384, then north and east along County Road 384 back to County Road 383. Go north on County Road 383 to the intersection of County Road 387, then west on Brides Hill Road (County Road 387) to Alabama Highway 20, then west on Alabama Highway 20 to the intersection of Alabama Highway 33. Proceed south on Alabama Highway 33 to the intersection of County Road 222, then east on County Road 222 to the intersection of County Road 294, then follow a line southeast by Blowing Springs Branch to the intersection of County Road 217 at Sulphur Springs. Go north on County Road 217 to Alabama Highway 20, then east on Alabama 20 to point of beginning.

Sector H-10—Lawrence County

Beginning at the intersection of Brides Hill Road (County Road 387) in the vicinity of Terry Heights subdivision, go east along County Road 387 5.4 miles to County Road 423, then north to the end of County Road 423. Proceed due north to the Lawrence County line at the Tennessee River, then westerly along the county line to a point due north of the TVA Public Use Area, then south to the Spring Creek Road bridge. Follow Spring Creek Road (County Road 400) south to County Road 389, south on County Road 389 to Jefferson Street, then east on Jefferson Street to Alabama Highway 33, to Terry Heights subdivision.

Sector I-10—Lauderdale County

Beginning at Elk River Bridge at U.S. Highway 72, go west to County Road 77, south on County Road 77 to Barnett Road, south on Barnett Road to curve in the road, then a southwest angle to the intersection of County Road 632 and County Road 91. Go north on County Road 91 to intersection of Longshore Drive, then south on Longshore Drive into Tennessee River to Lauderdale County Line. Follow Lauderdale County Line east then north to beginning point at U.S. 72 at Elk River Bridge.

Sector J-10—Lauderdale County

Beginning at Elk River Bridge at U.S. Highway 72, go west on U.S. Highway 72 to County Road 70, north on County Road 70 to the intersection of County Road 70 and County Road 566, then east on County road 566 to Richter Road at Lauderdale County line. Go south on Richter Road following Lauderdale County line into Elk River and then following Lauderdale County line to beginning point at Elk River Bridge at U.S. Highway 72.

Sector K-10—Limestone County

From a point on the Tennessee River and TVA Public Use Area to Elk River State Park go north along the Lauderdale County line to the 10-mile EPZ and Lauderdale County line intersection, along 10-mile EPZ line to the Elk River Mills Dock, south on Elk River Mills Road to Baker Hill Road. Proceed southwest on New Cut Road, south on Gordon Road to Snake Road to Friend Road, south on Friend road to Friend Branch and the Tennessee River.

Follow the evacuation routes shown on the map. Traffic



Evacuation routes

may also be directed by emergency workers. Go to the nearest Reception Center and register as an evacuee.

I-10 Lauderdale County

Take County Road 91, County Road 70, and County Road 77 to U.S. Highway 72. Proceed west to Brooks High School in Killen.

J-10 Lauderdale County

Take County Road 70 to U.S. Highway 72 West to Brooks High School in Killen.

F-2 & F-5 Lawrence County

Take shortest route to State Highway 20 (Alternate U.S. 72). Go west on State Highway 20 to County Road 217 to State Highway 24. Go west on State Highway 24 to State Highway 157, south on State Highway 157 to Court Street, west on Court Street. Follow instructions of Traffic Control personnel to the Moulton Recreation Center.

F-10 Lawrence County

Travel south to State Highway 24. Go west on State Highway 24 to State Highway 157. Turn south on State Highway 157. Follow instructions of Traffic Control personnel to the Moulton Recreation Center.

G-2 Lawrence County

Travel south to State Highway 20. Go west on State Highway 20 to County Road 217, south on County Road 217 to State Highway 24, west on State Highway 24 to State Highway 157. Go south on State Highway 157 to Court Street. Turn west on Court Street to the Moulton Recreation Center.

G-5 Lawrence County

Take the most direct route to County Road 400, then proceed east on County Road 400 to Alabama Highway 20. Go west on Alabama Highway 20 to County Road 217, south on County Road 217 to Alabama Highway 24, west

on Alabama Highway 24 to Alabama Highway 157, where you will be directed to the Moulton Recreation Center.

G-10 Lawrence County

Travel to State Highway 20. Go west on State Highway 20 to State Highway 33, then south on State Highway 33 to the Moulton Recreation Center.

H-10 Lawrence County

Proceed west to County Road 400, then south on County Road 400 to County Road 389. Go south on County Road 389 to Alabama Highway 20, east on Alabama Highway 20 to Alabama Highway 33, south on Alabama Highway 33 to the Moulton Recreation Center.

A-2, A-5 Limestone County

Travel north to U.S. Highway 72. Crossing Highway 72 follow evacuation route signs north to West Limestone High School and Elkmont High School. Residents in western portion of Sector A-5 may travel northeast on Baker Hill Road, following evacuation signs and directions of law enforcement personnel to West Limestone High School.

K-10 Limestone County

Proceed to U.S. Highway 72, then northeast on Baker Hill Road, following evacuation route signs to West Limestone High School.

A-10 Limestone County

Travel north on evacuation routes to West Limestone High School or Elkmont High School.

B-2, B-5 Limestone County

Travel north to U.S. Highway 72 and then east on Highway 72 to East Limestone High School. As an alternate route, those traveling east through sector B-10 may continue east to Peets Corner and then north to East Limestone High School.

B-10 Limestone County

Travel north to Athens and then north on Highway 251 to

Ardmore High School.

E-5 Morgan County

Travel south on Finley Island Road or east on State Highway 20 to Woodall Road, then south to Modaus Road. Go east on Modaus Road to State Highway 67, east on State Highway 67 to U.S. Highway 31, south on U.S. 31 to Hartselle Junior High School.

E-10 Morgan County

Travel east on State Highway 24 to Woodall Road, south on Woodall Road to Modaus Road, then east to State Highway 67. Go east on State Highway 67 to U.S. Highway 31, then south on U.S. Highway 31 to Hartselle Junior High School.

C-10 Morgan County

Travel east on State Highway 20 or 24 to U.S. Highway 31. Go south on Highway 31 to State Highway 67, then east on Highway 67 to Priceville School.

D-10 Morgan County

Take shortest route to either Danville Road or Old Moulton Road to State Highway 67. Go east on State Highway 67 to U.S. Highway 31, south on U.S. Highway 31 to Hartselle Junior High School.

To help you prepare for any type of emergency, we have provided two lists of supplies. One list is items you may need to



If you need special help

Your health and safety are very important to us. We realize that some of you who live near Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant may have special needs. To assist and provide care for those of you who are medically disabled or handicapped, we must make certain plans.

If you or someone you know who lives within 10 miles of Browns Ferry needs special help, please fill out and mail one of the two cards provided in this calendar. After you have answered the questions on the card, drop it in a mailbox. The card is pre-addressed, and the postage has been paid. You need to mail this card as soon as possible so proper arrangements can be made.

Please fill out the card and mail it even if you may have previously returned a card. This will enable your emergency officials to maintain a current list of individuals who would need assistance. If you have any questions or need additional cards, please contact one of the Emergency Management Agencies listed below.

Lauderdale County

Emergency Management Agency – 760-6363

Lawrence County

Emergency Management Agency – 974-7641

Limestone County

Emergency Management Agency – 232-2631

Morgan County

Emergency Management Agency – 351-4620

For farmers and home gardeners

If an incident occurs at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, your local Emergency Management Agency will provide directions on contacting your Agricultural Extension Agent for information on how to protect your crops and livestock. For more information, listen to your local radio and TV stations.

Your crops

- An unharvested crop is hard to protect. However, normal harvesting and processing may still be possible if time permits.
- Crops already harvested will be safer if they are stored inside.
- You should wash and peel vegetables and fruits from your garden before use if they were not already harvested.

To protect your livestock

- Provide as much shelter as possible. If you do not have enough space in barns or sheds, use natural shelters such as wooded areas or road underpasses.
- Provide plenty of food and water and make sure shelters are well ventilated.
- Milk animals should be given first priority.
- Use stored feed when possible.

Emergency supplies checklist

keep in your home to aid your response. The second list is supplies to take with you if you are asked to leave the area. Check the supplies you would need and add supplies not listed.

Emergency supplies for your home

- Weather alert radio
- First-aid kit
- Toolbox
- Candles and matches
- Portable radio, flashlight, extra batteries
- _____

Evacuation supplies

- This calendar
- Medicine or any special medication
- Personal health products (shaving cream, toothbrush)
- Special diet food
- Blankets and pillows
- Cash, checkbook, credit cards, important papers
- Items for children (favorite toy, books)
- Change of clothing
- _____

If given potassium iodide tablets: During a nuclear emergency, you might be exposed to radiation that could harm your thyroid gland. Therefore, public health officials may give you potassium iodide tablets (KI). The tablets can reduce the amount of radioactive iodine collecting in your thyroid gland.

The tablets will be given only to those persons from the affected areas who may have been exposed to radioactive iodine. It is important that you know the sector that you evacuated from, and that you read and understand the consent form you will receive prior to taking the tablets. Take the tablets only as directed, and call your Public Health Office if you have questions.

How emergencies are classified

If there is an incident at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, it will be



General information

placed in one of four categories that have been established by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission and adopted by the State of Alabama and TVA.

For your information and reference, here are the four emergency levels in order from least to most severe.

1. A Notification of Unusual Event is the least serious of the four classifications. Because of strict federal regulations, any event out of the ordinary is reported to federal, state, and local authorities. The event poses no risk to you or to plant employees. It means that a minor problem exists. Appropriate officials and personnel are notified.
2. An Alert is declared when an event has occurred that could reduce the level of safety of the plant, but backup plant systems are available. Emergency agencies are notified and asked to stay in touch, but no action by the public is necessary.
3. A Site-Area Emergency is declared when there is a problem with plant safety systems and a release of some radioactivity into the air or water is possible. The sirens may be sounded. You should listen to radio and television stations for information and instructions.
4. A General Emergency is declared when an event at the plant has caused a loss of several safety systems that could lead to a release of radiation. State and local authorities would take action to protect the residents living near the plant. People in affected areas would be advised by authorities to stay indoors or to evacuate.

Background radiation – This is radiation from natural sources. It comes from the sun's rays; it's in the ground, building materials, and the human body.



Glossary

Core – The central part of a nuclear reactor that contains the uranium fuel.

Fission – The nuclear process in which a heavy atom, such as uranium, splits into fragments.

Fuel assembly – A collection of rods that contain the nuclear fuel pellets. The fuel pellets produce heat to make the steam used to generate electricity.

Fuel pellets – Thimble-sized uranium dioxide pellets used in nuclear power generation. Each pellet contains about the same amount of energy as that produced from burning one ton of coal. A modern reactor core may contain up to 17.5 million pellets.

Fuel rods – Hollow tubes that contain stacks of uranium dioxide fuel pellets. These rods are bundled together to form fuel assemblies.

Half-life – The time required for a radioactive substance to lose one-half of its radioactivity. Half-life can vary from minutes to years, depending on the substance.

Radiation is energy traveling in the form of invisible particles or rays after the breakdown of radioactive atoms. Everyone is exposed to small amounts of radiation every



What is radiation?

day. Air, water, food, and sunshine are a few sources of natural background radiation. Most people receive a dose of about 300 to 400 millirems of background radiation a year. “Millirem” is a term used to measure the effect of radiation on the human body.

Radiation also comes from other sources. Color televisions produce about 1 millirem of radiation every year. Medical procedures such as x-rays and diagnostic tests can result in 20 to several thousand millirems of radiation a year, depending on a person’s treatment for disease or injury.

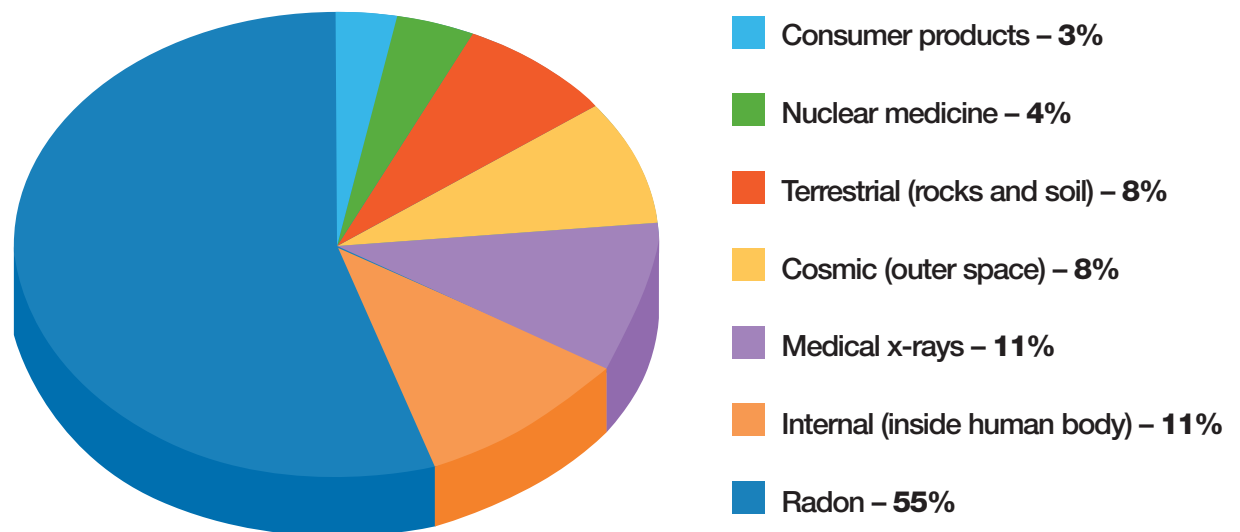
People are concerned about radiation exposure because it can alter or damage human-cell structure. That is why workers at nuclear power plants are carefully monitored and trained to limit their exposure to a level that is as low as is reasonably achievable. The Nuclear Regulatory

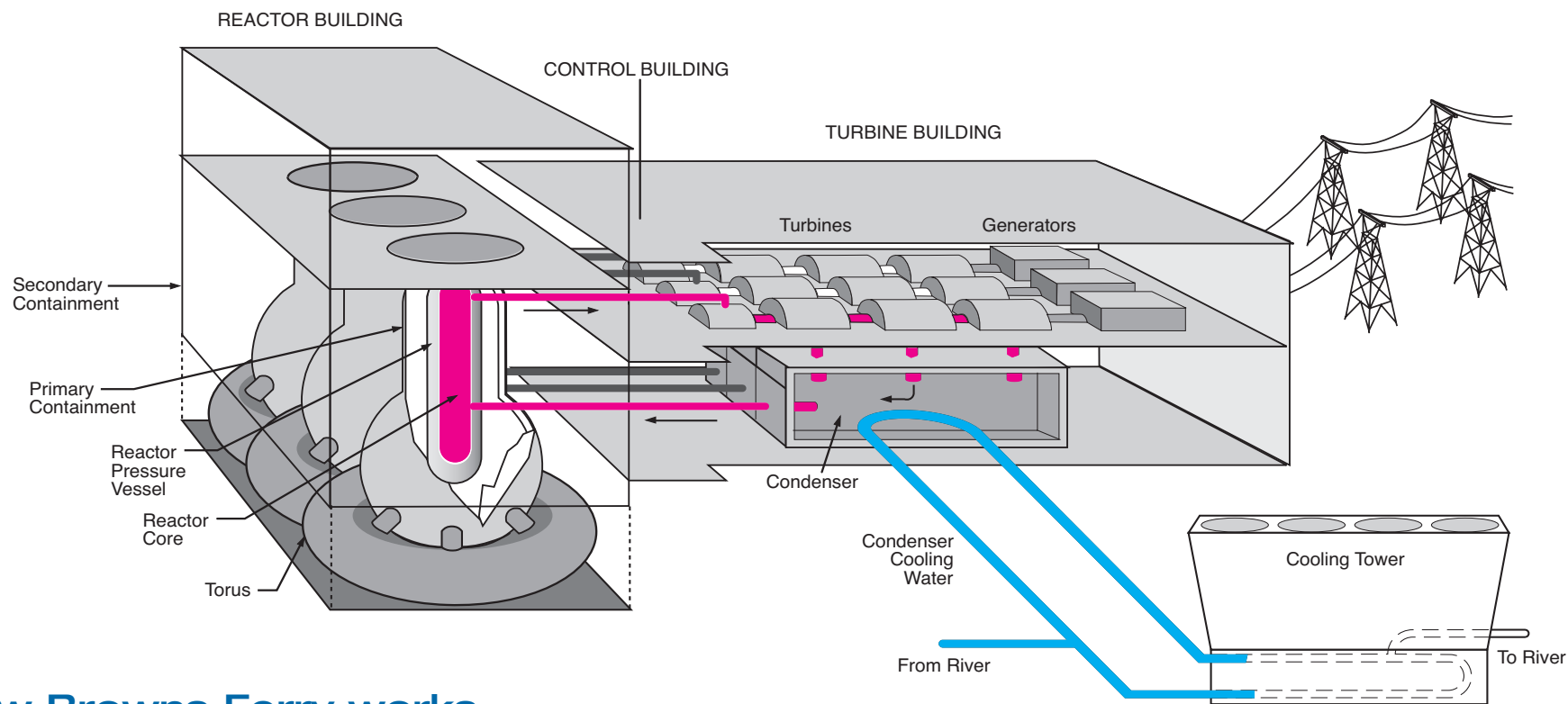
Commission, which issues licenses to all nuclear power plants, has set a maximum safe individual dose of 5,000 millirems a year, measured over the entire body. To avoid coming even close to this level, TVA work procedures set an administrative limit of 1,000 millirems per year for any worker, with any additional dose requiring written approval.

A nuclear power plant’s containment building, reactor vessel, and fuel assemblies are barriers designed to contain radiation and protect plant workers and persons living near the plant from any exposures to elevated levels of radiation. Repeated surveys around TVA operating nuclear plants have shown no detectable increase in radiation above normal background levels.

Browns Ferry operates much like a fossil-fueled power plant. In a fossil plant, coal, oil, or gas is burned to make heat. The heat turns water into steam, the steam drives a

Sources of radiation





How Browns Ferry works

turbine, and the turbine spins an electrical generator, producing electric power.

The operation is the same at Browns Ferry, except the heat is provided by a process called fission, and the fuel is uranium. The uranium is sealed inside long metal tubes, called fuel rods. These rods are placed into the reactor vessel, making up the fuel core.

When a uranium atom is struck by a small particle called a neutron, it can give off heat and more neutrons. Those neutrons can strike other uranium atoms, causing them to continue the chain reaction.

The reaction is started and stopped by control rods that can be moved in and out of the fuel core. These control rods are made of a material that absorbs neutrons. When

inserted into the core, they stop the chain reaction.

It is physically IMPOSSIBLE for the nuclear fuel at Browns Ferry to explode like a nuclear bomb. The fuel for Browns Ferry and other similar nuclear power plants is only about 3 to 5 percent fissionable uranium. Nuclear weapons have in excess of 90 percent fissionable uranium. The illustration above shows how the heat from the fission process is used to make steam and generate electricity at Browns Ferry.

Water (pink) is pumped through the core and heated by the fuel. The water boils in the reactor to produce steam. The steam is piped to the turbine, where the force of the expanding steam turns the turbine.

To produce electricity, the turbine turns the generator, which is an electromagnet inside a coil of wire. After the steam passes through the turbine, the steam is cooled

back into water by circulating around tubes carrying cool water (blue) from Wheeler Reservoir.

The condensed steam, which is now water, is pumped back to the reactor to repeat the cycle. The condenser cooling water may be passed through the cooling towers before it is returned to the reservoir.

The reactor coolant water is radioactive and is NOT allowed to mix with the condenser cooling water that is returned to the reservoir.